

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/026 W

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P R 071551Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8285

INFO COMDT NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE WASHDC

COMDT INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE OF THE ARMED FORCES WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY/ECJ4-7/

DIR DIA WASHDC/AH/

JCS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV (POUCH)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 2202

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, XA, CG, ET, IS, KE, NI, TS, TZ, UV

SUBJECT: NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE NIGERIA VISIT

REF: LAGOS 1847 (NOTAL), STATE 280519

1. IN COURSE OF MARCH 7 DISCUSSION OF OTHER MATTERS (SEPTTEL) WITH AMBASSADOR OLISEMEKA, HEAD OF MEA AMERICA DEPARTMENT, CHARGE ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS WORD WE COULD PASS ON TO WASHINGTON RE PROJECTED NWC/ICAF VISITS. OLISEMEKA SAID MATTER WAS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AND EMBASSY WOULD BE INFORMED AS SOON AS CONCLUSION REACHED.

2. OLISEMEKA THEN EXPRESSED PERSONAL CONCERN THAT NWC TIMING MAY MILITATE AGAINST VISIT THIS YEAR. PLANS ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR GENERAL GOWON TO VISIT

A NUMBER OF CARIBBEAN STATES AFTER COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN APRIL, THREATENING TO KEEP HIM OUT OF NIGERIA UNTIL AFTER PROPOSED DATES OF NEC VISIT. OLISEMEKA SAID FMG LOOKS FORWARD TO YEARLY NWC VISIT AND WANTS TO ENSURE ITS COMPLETE SUCCESS. HOWEVER, AS IT IS CLEAR THAT MEETING WITH GOWON IS HIGH POINT OF NWC VISIT, AND AS GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT VISIT TO BE ANY LESS SATISFACTORY THAN LAST YEAR AND PREVIOUS YEARS, OLISEMEKA EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IT MIGHT IN LAST ANALYSIS PROVE IMPRACTICAL TO GO THROUGH WITH VISIT THIS YEAR.

3. CHARGE THANKED OLISEMEKA FOR THE WARNING, REAFFIRMED KEEN NWC INTEREST IN NIGERIAN VISIT, AND ASKED THAT OLISEMEKA INFORM EMBASSY ASAP OF PRECISE DATES OF GOWON'S CARIBBEAN TRAVELS SO WAS CAN EXPLORE SCHEDULE SHIFTS THAT MIGHT STILL MAKE VISIT POSSIBLE. OLISEMEKA PROMISED TO DO SO.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THIS IS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF CARIBBEAN VISITS AFTER COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE, IT SEEMS QUITE POSSIBLE AS GOWON HAS OUTSTANDING INVITATIONS FROM A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN THE AREA. IF THE LOGISTICAL PROBLEM OF JUGGLING NWC SCHEDULE AT THIS LATE DATE IS NOT INSURMOUNTABLE AND NWC CONSIDERS NIGERIAN VISIT WORTH THE EFFORT, NWC MAY WISH EXPLORE POSSIBLE PERMUTATIONS OF AFRICAN TRIP SCHEDULE SO WE COULD OFFER FMG ALTERNATIVE DATES.

5. IF NIGERIAN VISIT CANNOT BE RESCHEDULED, WOULD NWC BE INTERESTED IN COMING EVEN IF GOWON WERE NOT AVAILABLE? (CAVEAT: AS CAN BE SEEN FROM OLISEMEKA'S REMARKS, FMG ITSELF MAY NOT WISH TO GO THROUGH WITH VISIT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, SO THERE WOULD BE NO GUARANTEE ON THIS POINT.)
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